A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, June 26. 1712.

I Have with all the Freedom I can, Treated every Subject I ſpeak of, and I continue to do ſo, not regarding the Fear or Favour of Men; in doing this, it is my Fate, as it muſt be of every Man who will venture upon the deſperate Employment of ſpeaking naked Truth, to pleaſe and diſpleaſe alternately, every Party I talk about.

The World was never in a Condition ſo apt to miſtake themſelves, and to miſtake every-body elſe, as they are now; and thoſe People who have been pleas'd to miſtake me, (God forgive them) have ſhown it in nothing more than in this, that they could not (or would not) diſtinguiſh between what I was Writing *againſt*, or what I was Writing for —— I acknowledge one, and proteſt the other, and I claim it as a common Right, that I ought to be taken in my declar'd Meaning, and not in the Meaning, Prejudice thinks fit to put upon me.

I have always been of Opinion, that we ought to have Lingered this Way, to the Advantage of our Commerce and Poſſeſſions in the Dominions of *Spain* and *America*, and this I did even at the beginning of the War, before the Death of the late King *William* —

And

And on this Account, I was glad to hear, and free to eſpouſe any Rational Propoſal of a Trade to the *South-Seas*: But that I wrote on that Head to oblige any particular Perſon, is *as falſe*, as *it is true*, that many rejected that Propoſal in Prejudice to particular Perſons, without Judging of the Thing, or indeed Enquiring into it.

I have always been of Opinion, and Printed it five Year ago, *viz.* In the *5th* and *6th* Volume of this Work, that the Foundation of this War being to Eſtabliſh a Peace, by reſtoring the Ballance of Power in *Europe*, that Ballance of Power was to be Eſtabliſh'd, by preventing the *Spaniſh Monarchy* coming into the Hands, either of a King of *France* or an Emperor of *Germany*, and that a Partition was the only Way to bring this to paſs——— I little thought, that what I could venture to ſay ſo long ago without Reproach, could be ſuch Treaſon againſt my Principles, as it is now call'd: However, as I have ſeen no Satisfying Anſwer to it, no Safety to the Proteſtant Churches of *Germany* in it, nor any Rational Account given why it ſhould be done, I can ſee no Ground to Recant what I have ſaid, but am every Day more and more confirm'd in my Opinion.

But I ſee no Inference can be drawn from hence, why any one ſhould inferr or expect to find that I am againſt the Safety of our Religion and Liberty, and the Security provided for our Peace, by the Proteſtant Succeſſion, as it is Eſtabliſh'd in the Houſe of *Hannover*; nothing but Abominable Slander and Malice could ſuppoſe this of me: Thoſe who have ſuggeſted this, might with the ſame Juſtice have cut my Throat, or ſet Fire to my Houſe, and deſtroy my Wife and Children; and I doubt not ſome of them would have done ſo, had not the Gallows been at the End of it; nor do I break in upon my Charity, in judging ſo, ſince it is an allow'd Opinion, and Founded upon Experience, that he who will Cauſeleſly Ruin any Man's Reputation, or the Character of his Integrity, is hindred by nothing but fear of Puniſhment, from the other leſſer Murther, *viz.* Cutting his Throat.

Nor is it to pleaſe or Conviace theſe ſort of People, that I ſpeak my Thoughts now, of the Proteſtant Succeſſion, and of the Pretender: Principle leads an honeſt Man to ſpeak Truth, without any View of pleaſing, as it does without fear of diſpleaſing any one, and this is my Motive; But what am I ſpeaking of, and what for? I may be Arguing for the New Miniſtry all this while, for any Thing you know: Is not the Safety of the Queen, of the Government, of Religion, of Liberty, and of Poſterity, Concern'd in, and depending upon the Settlement of the Crown?———And can any Miniſtry act againſt theſe? It can be no Compliment to myſelf neither, to talk thus; for why ſhould it be any Merit in me, or in any one elſe, to Argue for the Proteſtant Succeſſion? Can any Man propoſe to himſelf freedom of Perſon, Poſſeſſion of Eſtate, Liberty of Religion, or Privilege of a Subject, upon any other Foot than of the Proteſtant Succeſſion? He then that can be for the Pretender, beſides his being Perjur'd before God, and a Traytor to the Queen, muſt be blind to his own Advantages, a Fool to his Family, and be divided againſt himſelf.

Nor is there any greater Miſtake among us, concerning this Debate with our Party-Diviſions; as to New Miniſtry and Old Miniſtry making Peace, or making War; at leaſt I do not ſee it——For any Man to ſuggeſt, that the New Miniſtry can be for the Pretender, is to me ſuch an Abſurdity, that ſaving the Duty of Reſpect to their Perſons, they muſt be all Mad-Men, quite demented and bereav'd, no more fit to hold the Reins of the Adminiſtration in this Nation, than a *Chineſe*, or an *Indian* King—They muſt have no Senſe of the Advanta-

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ges they now enjoy, nor Prospect of keeping the hold they have; for despotick Tyranny, and *Popish* Government, are no more consistent with the Authority and Method the Ministry here act by, than the Office of Lord Treasurer is consistent with that of *Grand Vizier* at *Constantinople*; it is therefore no Compliment to the Ministry, to say they cannot be for the Pretender, it is only an acknowledgment that they are not out of their Wits.

But whither has not this *Jacobite Fiction* led us? Has it not gone on to persuade, *for to what may not some People be persuaded*, that the Queen herself is a *Jacobite*, and that her Majesty will Resign her Crown to the Pretender, nor is this so absurd a Thing, but that there are Thousands in *Britain* persuaded to believe and expect it?

But as this is too gross for common belief, so they are come off from it a little, and now the Notion is, that her Majesty *is not* to give up the Crown to him, but *to preserve it for him*, and to secure that he *shall have it after her*—— And what is this but a visible Plot against the Life of the Queen, and making her Majesty necessary to her own Destruction? For is not this making her Majesty only *Tenant for Life*, or as they say in *Scotland*, *Life-Renter* of the Crown, the Reversion or Remainder to be to the *Pretender*? And what would follow this, or what would the *Jacobite* Party have to do then? Or what, indeed, would be their only Cast for it, but to make the Lease as short as they could?

So that in short, for her Majesty to do this, would be just Exposing her Life to the first desperate Ruffain of the Party, who by cutting that single Thread, would effectually carry the Point which has so long been in Dispute, and set up the Pretender by the Queen's own Act and Deed.

By the same Rule, what must the present Ministry be, if they should appear for the Pretender? Would it not be to expose the Life of their Sovereign and Benefactress to the bloody Hands of the first Villain the Party could hire, and make it absolutely necessary for them to destroy the Queen?

If it be said, why should this be more Dangerous to the Queen, than the declaring the Successor is on the other Hand? And why not the Queen's Life be in the same Hazard from the House of *Hanover*, as from the Pretender? *The Answer here is clear*, besides that, stabbing and poysoning is not a Protestant Principle; the Case is not the same, for the Succession of *Hanover* is secure, Establish'd by all the Nation, twisted with the Constitution, and there is no Danger in waiting; Time that will remove the whole Race now alive, must bring her Majesty, *long may it be first*, and all the Monarchs of *Europe*, to their Graves, and they need not be in haste, but it is suitable to the Nature of the *Pretender's* Cause to be impatient; and if this be the only Jesture he has to hope for, it is now he would strike at all.

But the Protestant Succession is Calculated to preserve her Majesty's Life, and while the Succession is secur'd to the House of *Hanover*, there is no Pretence for the *Jacobites* to destroy the Queen, because they would not be one jot nearer to the Crown than before, nay, they would have another Powerful Interest Engag'd against them, they would therefore only change their Enemy, not change the Situation of their Interest.

So that it seems to me to be the Interest of the present Ministry, and the only Safety of her Majesty's Life, that the Protestant Succession be secur'd —— And I cannot wonder, therefore, that when her Majesty speaks of the Protestant Succession, she speaks of it as the Thing *nearest her Heart*. The Queen could have no Heart to speak, nor would long have Breath to speak with, if the Settlement of the Protestant Succession were once Dissolv'd, nor would any Man give two Years Purchase for an Annuity on the Queen's Life, if the Pretender was to come after her Decease.

He then that is for the Pretender, let him read his Picture; he would have Popery Establish'd, Liberty Destroy'd, and the Queen Murther'd.

ADVER.

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